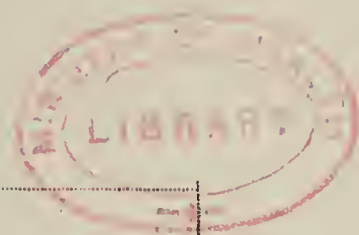


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PETWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of   the

Medical Officer of Health

KENNETH N. MAWSON

M.B. , Ch.B. , D.P.H.



Health Department,  
Comewell House,  
North Street,  
Horsham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Petworth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith an Annual Report upon the health of the district and the work of the Health Department during 1939. This report represents the sixty-sixth for the area, and is arranged in accordance with the recommendations contained in Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health.

It will be appreciated that, owing to war conditions, the work of the Department has increased materially, and for this reason there has been considerable delay in the issue of this report. I wish, however, to pay tribute to the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who provided me with all necessary figures for which he is responsible early in 1940, in spite of the many extra duties laid upon him as a result of the War.

It will be noted that, in the interests of economy, the report has not been printed as in previous years.

The outstanding events of the year under review was the outbreak of war and the intensive Air Raid Precautions work which preceded it. The district was scheduled as a Reception Area under the Government Evacuation Scheme, and early in September 1939, 1332 members of the priority classes were received in the District. Of this number 942 were still in the District at the end of the year.

It had been anticipated that the Evacuation scheme, with the resultant admixture of urban and rural dwellers, would cause a sharp rise in the incidence of the commoner diseases of childhood. For this reason the Council established two Sick-Bays, the first being opened at Round Street House on 4th September 1939, and a larger establishment at Hilliers, Petworth, on 14th October 1939, with accommodation for 24 children.

It was found in practice, however, that no epidemics did occur, the sickness rate among the evacuated population being remarkably low. The accommodation provided was mainly used for the treatment of minor skin conditions and scabies, and for this purpose proved of great value. It was found, however, owing to the low rate of sickness and also to the unexpected return of large proportions of the evacuated population to their homes, that two establishments were not necessary. Round Street House was therefore closed on December 15, about a dozen children only having been admitted during the three months.

I would like to acknowledge the loyal assistance of all members of the Health Department, and the co-operation of the Chief Officers of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH N. MAWSON

Medical Officer of Health





PETWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres) 45,635

Registrar-General's estimate of:-

(a) resident population mid 1939. 8,100

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates. 8,590

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books. 2,488

Rateable Value £44,825

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £186

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births (Legitimate .....	104.	58.	46.)	Birth Rate
(Illegitimate .....	8.	4.	4.)	13.8
Still Births .....	1.	1.	0.)	Rate per 1,000
				Total Births
				8.9
Deaths .....	117.	71.	46.)	Death Rate 13.7
England & Wales Birth Rate .....	15.0			Death Rate .....
				12.1
West Sussex Rural Districts Birth Rate...	14.85			Death Rate.....
				11.93
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes .....				0
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-				

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ..... 35.7  
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births..... 28.84  
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ..125.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..... 15  
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..... 0  
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... 0  
Deaths from Diarrhoeas (under 2 yrs. of age).... 0

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease ..... 35  
Cancer ..... 15  
Cerebral Haemorrhage ..... 10  
Pneumonia ..... 9  
Senility ..... 5

Social Conditions.

The district is agricultural and residential in character, being comprised to a great extent of large estates. Fruit farming is an important and growing industry in the Kirdford area and a fruit packing firm operates in Kirdford.



Employment was generally good throughout the year, the public contracting work proceeding in the district on behalf of the Council's water supply scheme absorbed all casual labour and agricultural work increased in the latter part of the year.

## Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

### 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

#### (a) Medical.

Kenneth N. Mawson. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, part-time with Horsham Rural and Horsham Urban Sanitary Districts, together forming the North-East Combined Sanitary District.

#### (b) Sanitary Inspectors.

Norman Green, M.R.San.I., A.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector. (1. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors. 2. Certificate of the Royal Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods. 3. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Advanced Knowledge of the Duties of a Sanitary Inspector. 4. Certificate of The Institute of Hygiene (Honours). (Also Superintendent of Water and Sewage Works).

W. Parker, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector. (1. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors. 2. Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.)

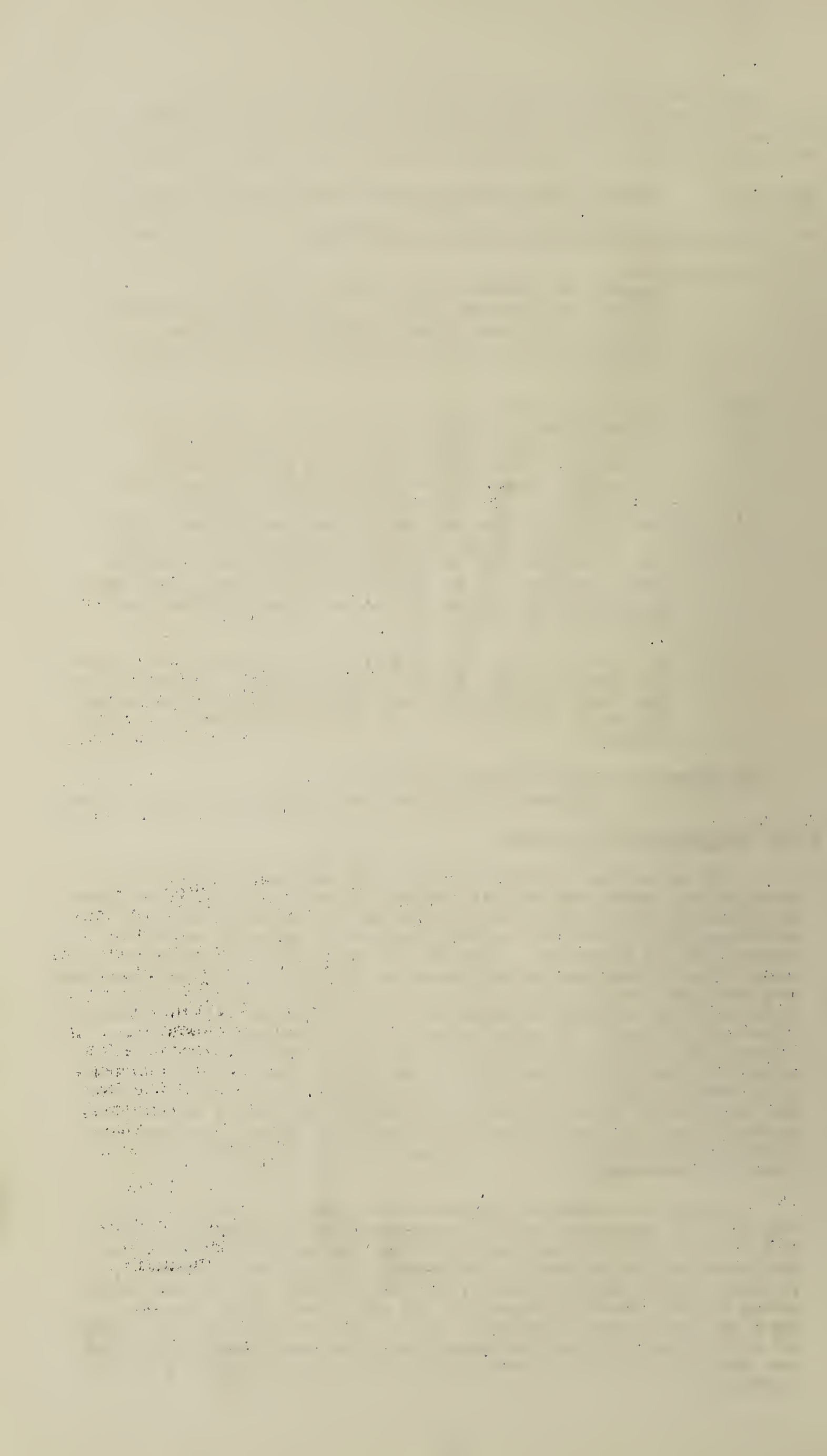
#### (c) Surveyor under Building Bylaws:-

F.J. Hodgson, L.R.I.B.A., A.I.Struct.E., (Part-time)

### 2.(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Prior to the outbreak of War, an Emergency Laboratory Service was organised by the Medical Research Council, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, in order to augment the existing facilities for bacteriological diagnostic work for Public Health purposes. One of the Emergency Laboratories under this scheme was established at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, and work was undertaken, in the first place, without charge. This service, whereby reports could be obtained without loss of time due to postal delays, proved of the greatest possible assistance in the early days of the War, and doubtless contributed to the low incidence of outbreaks in the district. Not only were specimens received at any hour, but Dr. Cruickshank, the Officer in Charge, made his services available to the Department and to Practitioners in doubtful cases, and rendered considerable assistance in epidemiological enquiries and in field bacteriology.

Under the agreement between the District Council and the Medical Research Council commencing 1st September, 1940, all routine bacteriological work for the District (including the examination of swabs, specimens of blood and faeces, routine water samples, etc.), is now carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory and an agreed block payment made by the District Council. No limit is made to the number of specimens which may be submitted, and the scheme generally has been found of the greatest possible assistance to the Department.





The following table gives details of the work carried under this scheme:-

Sept. - Dec. 1939.	Nose & Throat Swabs.....	9
	Faeces .....	23
	Blood .....	1
	Miscellaneous .....	2
	Total .....	<u>35</u>

#### b) Ambulance Facilities.

During the year the Council agreed to assume responsibility for an Ambulance Service to serve the needs of the district, this service having previously been provided by the police. The ambulance vehicle, which had a rather old fashioned body carried on a Ford chassis, was transferred to the Council on the 30th September, and arrangements were made for the service to be maintained by voluntary personnel. In view of the age of this vehicle, it was decided to obtain a new ambulance and delivery was still awaited at the end of the year.

### Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### 1. Water.

The comprehensive district water scheme was commenced in March by main laying and by the end of the year the mains to Northchapel, Kirdford and Plaistow had been completed. Also the new high level reservoir was nearing completion. It was found possible to give a supply of water through the new mains to Kirdford and Plaistow villages from the Council's existing low level reservoir and at the end of the year 10 houses and a factory had been connected whilst applications for connections were being received almost daily.

Two short additions to the existing water mains in Petworth were made during the year; about 300 yards of 3 inch main being laid.

The negotiations mentioned in my last annual report regarding the fencing and possible purchase of land at Haslingbourne springs were not proceeded with, as the Ministry of Health considered it not good policy to proceed to purchase a water supply which had already shown some contamination present. Legal difficulties arose with the owner of these spring supplies and the Committee decided to rely on the spring known as the Supplementary spring which had been previously used to augment the supply from Haslingbourne during drought periods. A new pumping plant was installed to raise the water to the Pumping Station proper and a new 3" main was laid underground to convey the water. This was put into operation on the 28th August 1939 and the Haslingbourne springs were shut off from supply.

Monthly samples were taken from the public supply and submitted for Bacillus Coli examination with the following results. Chlorination was continued to safeguard the supply against any sudden contamination which might occur.

<u>1939</u>	<u>Sample of Water taken from:-</u>	<u>Bacillus Coli.</u>
23rd January	Outlet Tank, Haslingbourne Springs.	Present in 100 c c.
" "	Public Mains (after Chlorination)	Absent in 100 c c.



<u>1939</u>	<u>Sample of Water taken from:-</u>	<u>Bacillus Coli</u>
21st February.	Outlet Tank, Haslingbourne Springs.	Absent in 100 c.c.
" "	Public Mains (After Chlorination).	Absent in 100 c.c.
15th March	Outlet Tank, Haslingbourne Springs.	Absent in 100 c.c.
28th March	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
24th April	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
17th May	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
21st June	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
18th July	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
29th August	Supplementary Spring	Present in 50 c.c.
13th September	Public Mains (after chlorination)	Absent in 100 c.c.
26th September	Supplementary Spring	Absent in 100 c.c.
11th October	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
31st October	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.
20th December	" " " "	Absent in 100 c.c.

A sample taken from the public mains was submitted for chemical analysis in November and the following is a copy of the Analyst's report:-

2nd December, 1939.

This sample yields the following results on Analysis:-

	<u>Grains per Gallon</u>
Total Solids	18.0
Chlorine	1.65
Ammonia	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	Absent
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Absent
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.33
Lead	Absent
Other Metals	Absent
Total Hardness (Clark's Scale)	9.2°
Microscopic Examination	Trace of Mineral Matter

From these results I am of opinion that this Water is free from contamination with sewage or injurious metals and safe to use for drinking purposes.

The degree of "Hardness" is moderate, and the water well suited for general domestic purposes.

for R.A. CRIPPS & SON LTD.

H. EARDLEY GROVES.

Analyst.

All the remaining ball valve fire hydrants were converted during the year to the spring loaded type to avoid contamination.

The total length of new water mains laid during the year was 38,717 yards exclusive of pumping mains.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The second filter bed at the Northern Sewage outfall works Petworth, mentioned in my last annual report, was constructed during the year to deal with the increased flow of sewage from the new houses being built on the Council's Hampers Green housing estate.







The reconstruction of the Southern Sewage outfall on the Petworth sewerage system was also to be proceeded with, and application was made to the Ministry of Health for a loan of £5,800 to carry out the work. It is now very doubtful whether the work will be carried out until after the end of the war.

No further developments took place during the year.

### Rivers and Streams.

The provision of proper drainage to cottages within the District continued throughout the year.

With regard to the pollution of the stream at Bignor and Westburton mentioned in my last Annual Report, a temporary settling tank was constructed at Bignor through which all the liquid must pass, giving a retention period in normal circumstances of about 3 hours.

The amount of solids, principally from a local farm, that formerly used to pass into the stream, can be gauged from the fact that the settling tank with a capacity of 1,400 gallons will become full of solids in 3 - 4 weeks. The farmer upon whose land the tank was constructed has undertaken to empty the same when required by means of the chain pump provided.

### Closet Accomodation

One or two conversions from pail closets to water closets were made during the year in the unsewered areas as a result of re-conditioning works under the Housing Acts.

In the sewered area two cottages with pail closets still remain, owing to their low level in relation to the sewer.

Improvements in this particular matter will doubtless remain in abeyance until the end of the war, particularly as the schemes in hand for providing sewerage in some of the villages has been stopped.

Number of closets converted to water carriage system:-

1935 .....	0
1936 .....	14
1937 .....	11
1938 .....	5
1939 .....	1

### Public Cleansing

A refuse collection service covers the whole of the district with the exception of a very few isolated houses. The frequency of collection varies according to the nature of the area, being twice weekly in the more densely populated portions of Petworth, once weekly on the outskirts of the town, fortnightly in all the villages and monthly in the more sparsely populated areas.

Two refuse dumps are still recognised in the district for the convenience of people living in inaccessible parts and these are cleared as necessary.

It has become increasingly apparent, however, that as the regular refuse collection service becomes better known and appreciated, the frequency of emptying the refuse dumps becomes less and in another year or so it will no doubt become possible



to close the remaining dumps without inconvenience to the public and with advantage both from the sanitary and aesthetic points of view

The burning of combustible refuse in an incinerator at the refuse pits was continued and the ashes were removed for brickmaking. Tins and other incombustible material are tipped crude into a disused stone pit and covered with builders' rubbish and soil when available.

A certain amount of salvage work is done by the Council's employees in the way of bottles, jars, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and in response to an appeal from the Ministry of Supply, salvage of clean paper etc. will probably be undertaken.

The Council have not undertaken the emptying of cesspools.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Notices served under the Public Health Acts:-

1.	Informal .....	18
2.	Statutory .....	0

Result of Notices served.

1.	Informal .....	19
2.	Statutory .....	0

Inspections etc.

Complaints received .....	7
Miscellaneous inspections .....	68
Re-inspections .....	7

Factories.

Number on Register.

a) where mechanical power is used .....	26
(b) " " " " not used .....	27

Bakehouses.

Number on Register. ....	16
Underground .....	0
Inspections .....	50
Number of defects found .....	0
Number of defects remedied .....	0

Laundries. Inspections.

Other Factories.

Inspections .....	57
Number of defects found .....	0
Number of defects remedied .....	0

Butchers' Shops.

Inspections .....	300
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Slaughter Houses.

Registered .....	6
Licensed .....	0
Inspections .....	120
Defects reported .....	0
Defects remedied .....	0





## Moveable Dwellings.

Licenced .....	9
Inspections .....	21
Fried Fish Shops.                      Inspections .....	51
Fishmongers & Poulterers                      "                      .....	50
Public Conveniences                      "                      .....	66
Refuse Collections                      "                      .....	36
Refuse Disposal                      "                      .....	74
Sewerage                      "                      .....	124
Water Supply                      "                      .....	811
Drainage                      "                      .....	178
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .....	68
Miscellaneous Housing Visits .....	84
Privies converted to Pail Closets .....	1
Privies converted to Water Closets .....	0
Pail closets converted to Water Closets .....	1
Houses connected to main drainage .....	0

## Water:-

Approvals granted in respect of new houses ..	19
New houses connected to main supply .....	3
Existing houses " " " " .....	11
Samples taken for analysis (excluding samples from public supplies).....	33
Samples not found satisfactory .....	17
Visits of enquiry into Infectious Disease .....	7
Rooms disinfected .....	28
Miscellaneous visits in connection with Infectious Disease .....	33

## Shops and Offices.

Number of shops inspected (Shops Act 1934) ..	3
" " Offices inspected .....	0

## Camping Sites.

1. Number of sites in the district used  
for camping during 1939 ..... 1
2. Number of sites in the district licenced  
(P.H.A. 1936 ) ..... 0
3. Estimated number (maximum) of campers  
resident in the area at one time  
during the summer season (1939)..... 120

## Smoke Abatement

There is no industry in this district which uses steam



power or other industrial process likely to cause a nuisance from smoke etc.

Swimming Baths & Pools.

There is no public swimming bath in the area. A pond in Petworth Park is used occasionally for swimming purposes, but most of the bathing in the summer months takes place in the River Rother at a point where a weir dams the water for Coultershaw Mill. This practice, however, has been discouraged by the occupier of the land erecting a barbed wire fence along the river bank.

A sample of the water was taken from the River at the bathing place on the 2nd June and submitted to the West Sussex County Laboratory and the following report was received:-

Coliform organisms present in	0.1 c.c.
Colonies developing aerobically in nutrient agar at 37°C:	134 per cc.
Colonies developing aerobically in nutrient agar at 20°C:	Plate obscured by growth of spreading organisms.

No samples were taken from other bathing places.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of houses infested with bed bugs were found or reported.

No examination of furniture etc. is undertaken before or after tenants move into Council houses.

Schools.

See previous Annual Report.

SECTION D.

Housing.

- 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year:-
  - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 85
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose . 275
  - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ..... 84
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose . 269
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 6
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 74





2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... 56

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A.- Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses, in respect of which notices were served, requiring repairs ..... 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ..... 1

(a) By owners ..... 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... 0

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: ..... 18

(a) By owners ..... 18

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... 0

C.- Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... 2

D.- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... 0

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 1

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 1

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 11

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... 0



(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	5
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	42
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	0

## Section. E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### 1. Milk Supply:-

Dairies and Cowsheds:-	
Number on Register .....	143

#### Wholesale:-

(a) Tuberculin Tested .....	8
(b) Accredited .....	39
(c) Pasteurised .....	0
(d) Others .....	96
Number of inspections .....	61

#### Dairymen (Retail):-

Number on Register .....	55
(a) Tuberculin Tested .....	5
(b) Accredited .....	15
(c) Pasteurised .....	1
(d) Others .....	54
Number of inspections .....	676

#### Number of notices served under Milk and Dairies Order 1926:-

(a) Statutory .....	0
(b) Informal .....	34

#### Complied with:-

(a) Statutory .....	0
(b) Informal .....	31

### 2. Meat and Other Foods.

Butchers shops and other places where food is prepared or sold are inspected frequently. The meat sold in the District is mostly local fed or National mark and is of a high quality. A small proportion of imported meat is sold.

No meat marking scheme is in force.

Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act for the preparation of preserved food etc.... 12

Premises registered as Ice Cream Dealers ..... 1





	Cattle ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed.	383	-	68	1,109	809
Number inspected	127	-	23	360	538
<u>All Diseases ex- cept Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	0.4%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of those inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.6%	-	-	-	-

The use of two slaughterhouses in Petworth was discontinued during the year.

### 3. Shell Fish (Molluscan):-

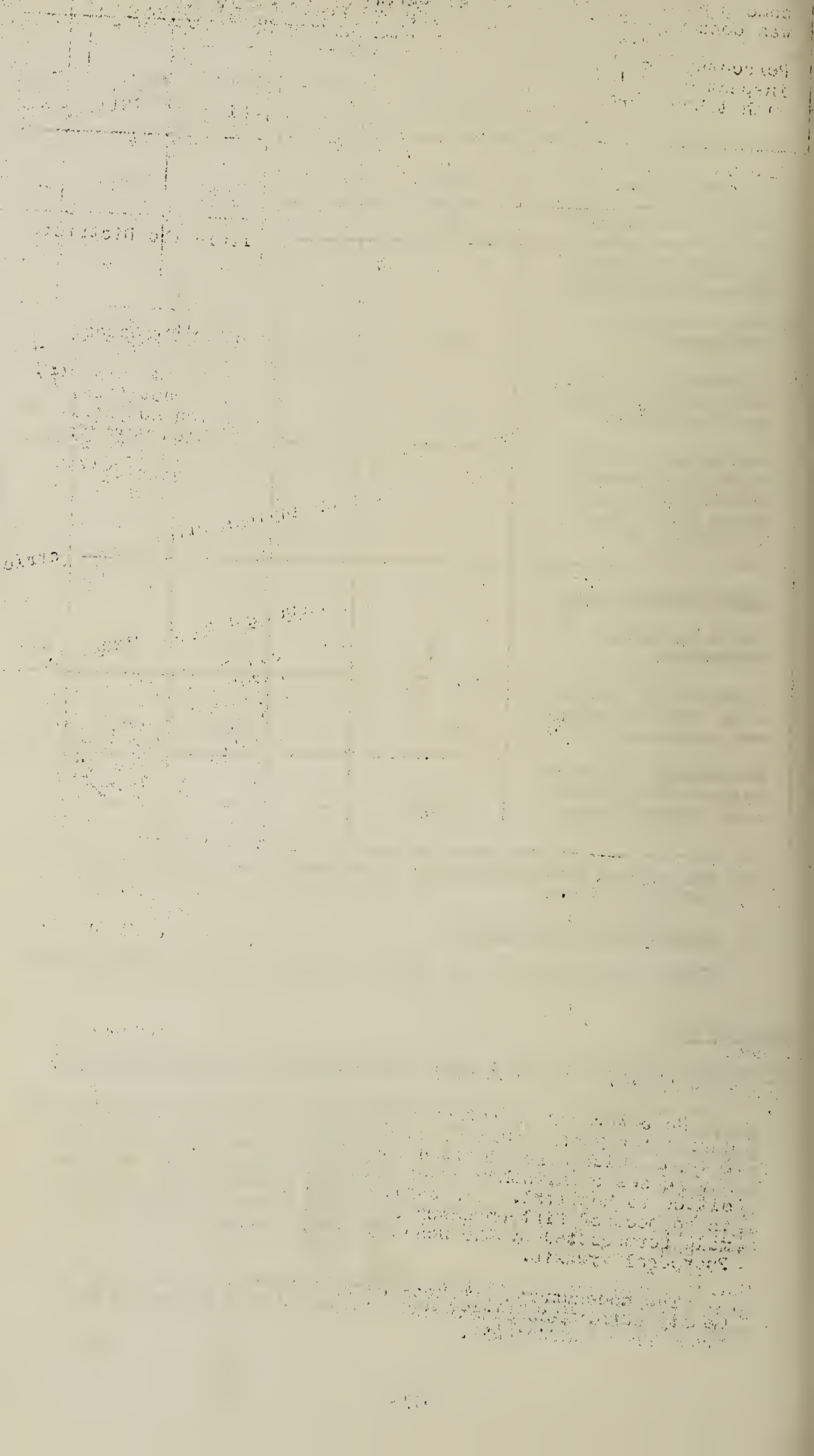
There are no shell fish beds or layings within the District.

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

No outbreaks of infectious disease occurred in the district during the year. Six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, four of which were admitted to Chichester Isolation Hospital. Five cases of Diphtheria were notified, all of which were admitted to hospital. In addition notifications were received in respect of fifteen cases of Pneumonia, two of Dysentery (a mild form caused by the Sonne bacillus) and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia.

The home nursing of Measles and Pneumonia by the West Sussex County Nursing Association has been continued and aided by a grant from the Council.



Tuberculosis.

1939.

- «a) The number of cases notified for first time during the year ..... 7
- (b) The number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification ..... 0

(a)	Pulmonary Males .....	2
	" Females .....	2
	Non-pulmonary Males.....	2
	" " Females .....	1
		<u>7</u>

There were three deaths from Tuberculosis; 2 pulmonary (1 Male, 1 Female); 1 non-pulmonary (Female).

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1939 was 86.







